

Pearl Harbor - Hickam News



USS Michael Murphy, Navy's newest destroyer, arrives at joint base

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The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) arrived Nov. 21 at its new homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The newest destroyer honors Navy SEAL (sea, air, land) Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005.

Murphy led a four-man team tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan when they came under fire from a much larger enemy force with

superior tactical position. Mortally wounded while exposing himself to enemy fire, Murphy knowingly left his position of cover to get a clear signal in order to communicate with his headquarters. While being shot at repeatedly, Murphy calmly provided his unit's location and requested immediate support for his element. He returned to his cover position to continue the fight until finally succumbing to

"It is great to bring this ship home," said Cmdr. Tom Shultz, commanding officer of USS Michael Murphy and its crew of nearly 300 Sailors. "This ship and crew arrive home for the first time ready to do what our namesake, Lt. Michael Patrick Michael Murphy were deco-

Murphy, did for this country and his teammates."

Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of Pacific Fleet; Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Capt. Wallace Lovely, deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 31; greeted the crew of USS Michael

"This ship and crew arrive home for the first time ready to do what our namesake, Lt. Michael Patrick Murphy, did for this country and his teammates."

Cmdr. Tom Shultz

Murphy at the pier.

Speaking to the Sailors aboard USS Michael Murphy, Haney said, "I want to congratulate you on your arrival here and enjoy the Pacific Fleet ohana. Thanks to you and everyone here, including our Navy SEALs and the joint service operators. It's a thrill to be here today for your arrival of the Navy's newest and most advanced multi-mission destroyer, USS Michael Murphy.

For many Sailors aboard the destroyer, this was their first time in Hawaii. The ship and Sailors aboard USS

rated with traditional Hawaiian lei as they pulled into Pearl Harbor. "Today as we came into port, it was like nothing I've seen before," said Culinary Specialist

3rd Class Hayleigh Mullins. "We got hyped up, we've been waiting for this day, and no one slept last night. When we were coming in, we got to man the rails very early so we got to watch the whole travel into Hawaii, and it was very welcoming with ships whistling and everybody standing out. It was the best feeling in the world," Mullins said.

The naming of the Navy destroyer for Lt. Michael Murphy is one of several tributes to the Navy SEAL. Murphy has also been honored by having a park in Long Island named after him, a monument at a post office in his hometown dedicated to Murphy and the others who died; and a veterans' plaza in his name at Penn State University.

"USS Michael Murphy, the most flexible, lethal and multimission capable ship of its kind, represents the backbone of our surface combatfleet," said Adm. ant Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations. "It is one of the best destroyers in the world.

"This ship will operate forward around the

globe, assuring allies, projecting The 9,200-ton Michael Murphy power and defending our nation. And, like its namesake Lt. Michael Murphy, this ship will serve to protect, influence and win in an era of uncertainty,"

Greenert said. Designated DDG 112, Michael Murphy is the 62nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, capable of conducting operations from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projec-

The ship is capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to sup-



was built by General Dynamics

Bath Iron Works. The ship is 509

feet in length, has a waterline

beam of 59 feet, and has a naviga-

tional draft of 31 feet. Four gas

turbine engines will power the

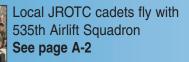
ship to speeds in excess of 30

knots.

Photo illustration



Chief of Naval Personnel gets pulse of fleet in Hawaii See page A-2





One year highlights: One team reaching together See page A-3



Navy League Sea Service Awards honor military personnel



Sailors, Coast Guardsmen selected for 2013 Warrior Games Team See page B-1



Tower Lighting celebration to include Tops in Blue See page B-4

Local JROTC cadets fly with 535th Airlift Squadron



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from six high schools around Oahu board a C-17 Globemaster III operated by an aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Nov. 13. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

SEAL of Honor

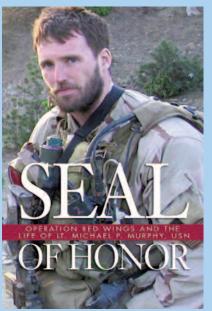
Gary Williams

Author

This essential category, warfighting first book tells the compelling tale of the late Navy SEAL, Lt. Michael Murphy. A young man of great character, he is the subject of Naval Special Warfare courses on leadership. An Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, naval base, school, post office, ball park and hospital emergency room have all been named in his honor.

In his bestselling book "Lone Survivor" (formerly listed on the CNO Professional Reading Program), Marcus Luttrell, the only survivor of Operation Red Wing, called Michael "the best officer I ever knew, an iron-souled warrior of colossal, almost unbelievable courage in the face of the enemy."
"SEAL of Honor" tells the story of

Murphy's life and how he came to be a man of selfless courage and honor. This book offers a sterling example of Navy core values lived out in his life, his service, and his sacrifice. It's a gripping and often emotionally moving book, and honors all who have made the ultimate sac- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.)



rifice in the war against terrorism. ("SEAL of Honor" is listed on the CNO's official Navy Reading List. The recently-commissioned USS Michael Murphy, named after Lt. Murphy, arrived Nov. 21 at its first homeport,

Chief of Naval Personnel gets pulse of fleet in Hawaii

Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public **Affairs**

The Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk spoke with Sailors at an all hands call held Nov. 16 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's historic Bloch Arena.

Van Buskirk is going fleet-wide to speak about key personnel policies, including force management initiatives, efforts to improve sea duty manning, and 21st Century Sailor and Marine programs.

"It's a great opportunity to get the pulse from the fleet," Van Buskirk said.

"We are hearing what the Sailors want to say and the issues that they are concerned about. As a result of what we are hearing, we're doing things about it. We are working towards getting manning right in the fleet, working at delivering the manning with the critical skills that are necessary to ensure that our ships can fulfill their missions," he said.

"We are aggressively attacking the issues that the fleet and our Sailors are concerned about, increasing manning where it needs to be, and focusing on those critical skills that the ships need to have out there," he

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Melanie Beverly of Baton Rouge, La. said, "A lot of the questions were about PTS (perform to serve). There was a question about liberty and a detailer question," she said. "They're trying to get more Sailors with more training to the ships. They're trying to balance the workforce."

"Today's all hands call Buskirk was an opportunity



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Steven Khor

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk spoke Nov. 16 at an all hands call at Bloch Arena at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

for Sailors interested in their career goals and Navy's personnel policies," said Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Marc Sibal.

"What are the voluntary and involuntary measures to reduce gaps at sea, and how will that affect shipmates? How are undermanned ratings being filled? What are the latest ways the Navy is trying to help Sailors and their families? These were just some of the questions and topics open for discussion," Sibal said.

Van Buskirk also spoke about what makes duty in Hawaii unique.

"Hawaii will always be a pivotal homeport for our Navy. It has a storied place in our history, and in the future it will remain a cornerstone for Navy and our nation," he said.

"It's a tremendous honor and pleasure to be back in Hawaii," Van Buskirk added.

"I've served over six years with Vice Adm. Van in this wonderful place, and every time I return I am

reinvigorated with the aloha spirit. It is always great to see old shipmates. It's truly a wonderful place to live, a tremendous place to work, and in our Navy it is a wonderful place to operate out of," he said.

Van Buskirk reinforced the message from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jon Greenert about rebalancing to the Pacific.

"The Pacific region is vitally important to our global economy and commerce," said Van Buskirk. "It's an area that we will continue to have a tremendous amount of presence and engagement in, so as a result we are looking at the investment of where our ships are and where our people are to ensure we have it right."

Summing up his all hands call in Hawaii, he said, "It's a great opportunity to get the pulse from the fleet, about issues they are contending with, things that they want changed, things that are working well, and things they want

One year highlights: One team reaching together

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

As of this week, on Nov. 19, it has been one year since I assumed command of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. There have been many highlights over the past year. It would be impossible to mention every event, but let's reflect on some of the achievements and goals we've reached together—as one

I arrived just a few weeks before Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day. Last year was a milestone ceremony—the 70th and the final ceremony for many of the Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII veterans who were able to attend. It was a moving, powerful remembrance.

We were joined in that commemoration Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, other senior military leaders, civilian community officials, Hawaii Historic Partners and international groups. Now in 2012, we are again planning one of the Navy's most significant cere- the ingenuity, courage and monies of tribute to our power of our Navy in turning World War II veterans. This year's keynote speaker will tributes to the Battle of



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

mander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In January we hosted Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jon Greenert, who spoke to us about the rebalancing to Asia-Pacific, reminding us of Hawaii's strategic importance as the gateway to the western Pacific, reinforcing the need to position our ships, submarines and aircraft here in Hawaii—warfighting ready and poised to operate forward.

In June we commemorated another 70th anniversary the Battle of Midway. This milestone was celebrated by the Navy throughout the world because it represented the tide of World War II. Our

the USS Arizona Memorial, set the standard. Over the past year—during this bicentennial of the War of 1812 we have shown our commitment to learning the lessons of history.

Last spring I took some of those lessons of history with me on a visit to Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham and Tuskegee, Ala. As part of the CNO's 50-Flags-to-50-States program, I spoke with schools, civic groups, local government officials and the media about the Navy's legacy, commitment to innovation and diversity, and our role in protecting commerce on the world's sea lanes, all in his-It was a toric context. rewarding visit for me in my home state and an opportunity to speak about the Navy's role in Hawaii and the Pacific and the importance of the Navy to Alabama.

Then, this past summer, our installations on Oahu and Kauai hosted the world's largest international maritime exercise ever conducted, Rim of the Pacific 2012. The Navy in Hawaii worked as team to support one RIMPAC's 22 nations, providing 25,000 participants with world-class training, logistics and other support. Some of our MIDPAC surface ships

demonstration of the Great Green Fleet and the power and potential of renewable energy. Others participated in deployments—spending months away from loved ones—standing the watch, defending freedom.

Most recently, we said farewell to one of our frigates, USS Crommelin (FFG 37), after her three decades of service. This week we welcomed the Navy's newest guidedmissile destroyer to our waterfront, USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112). We are very proud to have another heroic namesake on our team, named after the Navy SEAL was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for action in Afghanistan.

Many of our commands and tenant commands here in Hawaii were recognized by SECNAV and CNO with awards for environmental stewardship, historic preservation, and energy and water management. We were recognized for our efforts by U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye and the Hawaii state legislature.

Whether fighting wildfires, doing beach cleanups, or helping in local school programs, our service members, civilians and family members at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Joint Base Pearl participated directly in RIM- Harbor-Hickam and Marine be Adm. Cecil Haney, com- Midway, especially aboard PAC, including in the first Corps Base Hawaii have

shown true citizenship in eating habits. their communities, giving back in countless ways to build trust, harmony and cooperation.

Our Navy and Air Force team at the joint base is working in excellent alignment and to great effect to meet the understandable challenges of joint basing and exceeding nearly all expectations.

Mrs. Ponds and I enjoyed learning about Hawaiian culture and arts at the beautiful Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, Hawaii. Mrs. Ponds represented the Navy at the joint base in October. We continue to learn about the rich history of the people, the deep the overarching spirit of aloha. In the past year, together,

we have promoted safety awareness, sexual assault prevention and Spice abuse prevention. We have opened state-of-the-art fitness and child development centers, offered job fairs and training programs, and provided the best-possible MWR programs for our service memschools incorporated First to continuing our good work "Come Grow with Us" garden initiative, promoting physical fitness and healthy

Here in Hawaii we recognize the importance of working as one team, no matter what service, status or station—military or civilian, global or local.

Over the past year we strengthened our warfighting readiness (afloat and ashore), deployed forces forward, advanced Aegis Ashore, supported Pacific Partnership, advanced critical technology (a submarine magnetic silencing facility and ARDEL), advanced our joint security initiative, executed key altermakahiki celebration at the native energy initiatives, realized energy savings through reduced consumption, and remained good stewards of importance of the land and the environment. We expanded our community outreach, reinforced partnerships, recognized our history while protecting our heritage, and remained true to our ohana spirit.

> We did all this together as "one team."

We have accomplished a great deal together, and we have much for which to be thankful. I encourage you to think about all we have bers and their families—for achieved and in the year our entire ohana. All of our ahead to rededicate yourself Lady Michelle Obama's for fleet, fighter and family. It continues to be a tremendous privilege to lead this winning

Navy League Sea Service Awards honor military personnel

Story and photo by MCSN Diana N. Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det.

U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard recipients were honored during the 52nd Annual Sea Service Awards recognition luncheon Nov. 16 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

Forty-two select junior enlisted members and grade officers received awards for their leadership and outstanding service at the event hosted by the Honolulu Council Navy League.

The Navy Pacific Fleet Band, brass quintet provided musical accompaniment, America's counterattack in and the Navy Region the long war on terrorism. Hawaii Color Guard paraded the colors.

radio's "The Mike Buck and other demands, the

ceremonies for the event.

important. The Honolulu tion," Buck said. Council is the largest councountry with more members than any other branch including San Diego, which we are very proud of," said Buck. "And it is a great honor for me to serve as an MC [master of ceremonies]."

"This marks a significant milestone in what we've been doing at the Navy League," he continued.

"We've been doing this for 52 years. Our naval services fought in Vietnam War, stared down the Soviet Union the width of Cold War, and led Through the combat and through the routine deploy-Mike Buck, host of KHNR ments, and the training Show," was the master of Honolulu Council of the

Navy League has support-"This year's Sea Service ed the sea services like no Award ceremony is very other private organiza-

David Livingston, the cil Navy League in the president of the Honolulu Council Navy League, presented and thanked prior and active duty military members and their families as well as members of the Wounded Warrior Program present in the audience.

> He extended his appreciation and thanks to the sponsors, whose generosity and support made the event possible.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Rear Adm. Scott Weikert, deputy commander of Naval



Retired Senior Airman Brian Kolfage, keynote presenter and wounded warrior, address es the audience during the 52nd Annual Navy League Sea Service Awards Luncheon at Facilities the Ala Moana Hotel.

deputy chief of civil engi- you have-your family, neers, presented the recipi- your ents with awards.

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Steven Snow, assigned to Middle Pacific, one of the recipients of the award. good leadership, recognizing his work ethic and what he has done for his command.

warrior who lost both legs round while serving at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

"Be thankful for your thing."

Engineering Command and life, be thankful for what friends—because tomorrow they can be "I was honored to be taken away from you," said even mentioned," said Kolfage in his address to the audience.

"It doesn't matter the Afloat Training Group disability. With the disability I can do everything I did before, just do it in a differ-Snow received an award for ent way, and a lot of people don't recognize that until you're actually put in that situation."

"No matter how much The keynote presenter the odds are stacked was former Senior Airman against you, how horrible Brian Kolfage, a wounded something may seem, no matter what, you can make and his right arm after something positive out of being hit by an artillery it," said Kolfage. "And really, nothing can stop you if you want to conquer some-

'Sharp-shooters' earned medals at rifle and pistol matches

Privates 1st Class Alec E. Nez and William D. Yazzie were photographed in January 1943 when they participated in the Marine Corps Pacific Division Rifle and Pistol matches at Puuloa Point, then Territory of Hawaii. Both were Native Americans. Yazzie received a gold medal, Nez the first silver medal. Presentations were made by Brig. Gen. H.D. Linscott, commanding general, Marine Garrison Forces, Pacific.

> Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph





"What made you decide to join the military?"



Maj. Henry Buck Defense Information Systems Agency

"To serve God and country. I chose the Air Force specifically because my father and grandfather were Airmen."

Gas Turbine Electrical Technician Chief Martilino Apilado Afloat Training Group

"It was the best option when I came to the U.S. from the Philippines. My neighbor had joined and he basically recruited me. I've learned a lot since joining."





Senior Airman Michelle Ware 647th Security Forces Squadron

"To serve my country and begin a new adventure in my life.'

Information Technician 1st Class **Jonas Brice** Navy Region Hawaii

"I wanted to be an information technician and I saw the military as a vocational school that paid me instead of me paying them."



(Provided by David Underwood Jr.

and Brandon Bosworth). Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?

Got opinions to share? Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

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Navy Region Hawaii names 2012 Sailors of the Year

Story and photos by **Brandon Bosworth**

Staff Writer

The selectees for the Navy Region Hawaii Sailor of the Year for fiscal year 2012 were recently announced. Engineman 1st Class Tanner Baku was named Senior Sailor of the Year, Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Brian Schoffstall was named Junior Sailor of the Year, and Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Carmen Hernandez was named Bluejacket of the

Hernandez, assigned to Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) opera-June 2010 and has been stationed here since January 2011. A Los Hawaii. Angeles native, she enlisted for a change of pace. While Hernandez is happy to be named Navy Region Hawaii Bluejacket of the Year, she is ambitious and already looking ahead.



(Left) Senior Sailor of the Year EM1 Tanner Baku called his time at Pearl Harbor "a once in a lifetime opportunity." (Center) Bluejacket of the Year IT3 Carmen Hernandez looks forward to the regional competition. (Right) RP2 Brian Schoffstall is a two-time Junior Sailor of the Year honoree

because I still have to do al one. the regionals," she said. more of an accomplish-

This is the second year tions, joined the Navy in in a row that Schoffstall two-star admiral. He sort has been named Sailor of of recruited me." the Year at Navy Region

> "I was a little surprised," he said. "I'm sepainto the Navy Reserves."

Schoffstall works at the

"I was working a dead-"That would feel like even end job in Washington, D.C.," he said. "I met the chief of chaplains of the United States Navy, a

In addition to the quality of his work, Schoffstall believes his volunteer work helped him to be rating in May 2013 to go named Sailor of the Year two years in a row.

"I volunteer at the USO Navy Region Hawaii chap- monthly," he said. "I also lain's office. His Navy volunteer at Pearl City "I feel some anxiety career path was an unusu- Elementary with tutoring

and served as coordinator for the Feds Feed Families program."

Baku is assigned to the barge crew at CNRH. He said he was shocked to be named a Sailor of the Year.

"I'm just doing what I think of as normal duty," he said.

native always knew he Year is planned, though title Sailor of the Year, wanted to serve his coun- no final date or location and every one of these outtry, and the Navy was a has been determined. In standing Sailors deserve natural choice.

"My grandfather was a Schoffstall and Hernandez

during the Korean War," he said. "He was an engineer also and did exactly

duty ends this December. Harbor has been a once in Chief Marc Sibal. a lifetime opportunity," he

what I do.'

said. An awards ceremony The Emmett, Idaho honoring the Sailors of the the best get to earn the

and beautification projects naval veteran who served can take pride in their rare accomplishments.

"Being selected as the command's Sailor of the Year is one of the highest Baku's Hawaii tour of honors a Sailor can receive during their tour of duty," "Serving at Pearl said Command Master

"It represents hard work, professionalism and sacrifice. Only the best of the meantime, Baku, this recognition," he said.

Joint base observes American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

Story and photo by **Brandon Bosworth**

Staff Writer

and Alaska Native Heritage Month. To commemorate, an event was held Nov. 20 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

The main speaker was Senior Chief Gas Turbine System Technician (GSCS) (SW) Travis C. Wolf of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific. Wolf is originally from Alaska and is half Yup'ik, an Alaskan Native group.

Wolf started his presentation Indian and Alaska Native history from 1500 to the present. He addressed tragedies — such as

1830s — and triumphs, including the 2004 opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

On a more personal note, Wolf November is American Indian talked about growing up in a small Alaskan town where more than half the residents were Alaska Natives.

Wolf also spoke about the contributions that Native Americans and Alaska Natives have made to the United States military.

"There are about 190,000 Native American veterans in the U.S. today," he said. "One out of every four Native Americans is a with a brief overview of American veteran. They have the highest per capita rate of military service of any ethnic group," he said.

12,000 Around Native



GSCS (SW) Travis Wolf displays items from his native Alaska.

serve in the military. Wolf strength, honor, devotion and are part of the reason for these high rates of service.

"There is a warrior tradition the Trail of Tears in the early Americans and Alaska Natives that emphasizes virtues such as sampling of Alaska Native foods, parts of Alaska and Hawaii.

believes native cultural values wisdom," he said. "These values are a perfect fit with the military tradition.'

The event concluded with a

including venison and moose jerky, smoked salmon, fried bread and akutag, which is also known as "Eskimo ice cream." On display were several items from Alaska, including animal pelts, native clothes and tribal art.

National American Indian Heritage Month originated in 1990 when President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution. Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994.

The 2012 national theme, "Serving Our People, Serving Our Nations: Native Visions for Future Generations," encourages the nation to reflect and celebrate the cultures, histories and traditions of the indigenous peoples of North America, including

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



(Left) Joint-service paratroopers jump out of a C-17 Globemaster III operated by an aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

(Below) Joint-service paratroopers walk onto a C-17 Globemaster III operated by an aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen





Lt. Gen. Cha-Kyu Choi, Republic of Korea, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, and Burl Burlingame, Pacific Aviation Museum curator, unveil a ROKAF F-5A Freedom Fighter dedicated to Gen. Kim Too Man, a legendary figure in the ROKAF, at Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island, Hawaii on Nov. 12. The aircraft joins the museum's growing collection of more than 35 historic aircraft.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

(Below) A color guard detail parades the colors during the 52nd Annual Navy League Sea Service Awards Luncheon held Nov. 16 at the Ala Moana Hotel. Forty-two junior enlisted members and officers of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard received awards for leadership and outstanding service.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Diana Quinlan





(Above) The 52nd Annual Navy League Sea Service Awards winners stand in front of the audience after receiving their commendations during a luncheon Nov. 16 at the Ala Moana Hotel.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Diana Quinlan